

In the Claims:

Rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A multipurpose engineering construction machine of the loader/shovel type comprising a mobile chassis centrally mounting a driving and control station, said chassis supporting, at a front of the chassis, a loader assembly and, at a rear of the chassis, a shovel assembly or excavator, which assemblies can be controlled independently of one another via a hydraulic circuit selectively feeding a number of directional control valves that can be actuated by a manipulator and that control and supply hydraulic fluid to hydraulic actuators operating constituent elements of each assembly, wherein:

all the directional control valves supplying the actuators of the loader assembly and of the shovel assembly are grouped together in the form of a single module mounted transversely on the chassis, between a rear axle and a frame supporting the shovel assembly; and

supply of hydraulic fluid is via a variable-throughput pump supplying a priority valve of a steering function, the priority valve being physically associated with the module; and

~~the distribution of hydraulic fluid to each directional control valve is performed with a compensation balance allowing fluid deliveries to be adjusted in stages.~~

2. (Previously presented) The engineering construction machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the directional control valves supplying the actuators of the shovel assembly are manually or hydraulically controlled and the directional control valves supplying the actuators of the loader assembly are hydraulically controlled.

3. (Currently amended) The engineering construction machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the directional control valves supplying actuators of the loader assembly are arranged laterally ~~with respect to~~ outward of those directional control valves supplying actuators of the shovel assembly.